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SUBJECT: PER-SAFETY AND HEALTH

Purpose. To provide information on safe winter driving.

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When the roads become wet and icy from the winter weather, prepare yourself and your vehicle for all possible hazards. According to the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), the leading cause of death during winter storms is transportation accidents.

Make sure your vehicle has a tune up and everything is working adequately. Another safety concern is night time driving. Night time driving can raise your risk of getting into an automobile accident and adding wet and icy roads can raise your risk even greater. According to the National Safety Council, traffic death rates are three times greater at night than during the day. Since 90 percent of a driver's reaction depends on vision, darkness is the single largest factor making night driving more of a challenge.

Here are some helpful tips for safe winter travel:

- ❖ Dress in layers. Wear boots, hat, and gloves even if you are only going on a short trip.
- ❖ Maintain at least a half tank of gas.
- ❖ Bring a cell phone.
- ❖ Keep a flashlight, jumper cables, ice scrapper, and blankets available for all weather conditions.

If you were to get stranded in your vehicle:

- ❖ Make sure snow is not blocking the exhaust pipe.
- ❖ Stay in your vehicle and open a window slightly for fresh air.
- ❖ Occasionally run the engine to keep warm.
- ❖ Do not set out on foot unless you see a building close by where you know you can take shelter.

Remember if you are driving when road conditions are really bad, slow down and increase the distance between your vehicle and others on the road. If you have car trouble, pull off the road as far as possible and warn approaching traffic by putting car flashers on or dome light so that other drivers can see your car, and stay away from the roadway.

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DIST: AE

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